

Dunwoody High School Animal Rights Club
4854 Olde Village Ct.
Atlanta, GA 30338
1215 '99 OCT 20 AM 12:21

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers La., Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Every year, when egg production drops, approximately 195 million hens in North America endure a bizarre torment called forced molting. This cruel practice involves the ~~hens' bodies~~ collapse, stressing and shocking their worn-out bodies into laying one more batch of eggs before being sent to slaughter. The frightened birds are deprived of food for up to two weeks, water is restricted for up to eight weeks and they are kept in pitch dark for weeks on end. As a result, hundreds of thousands die while those who survive grow weak, shed all their feathers, and lose up to 35 percent of their body weight. Forced molting also weakens hens' bones, resulting in fragile, broken limbs.

Recent research, including a study conducted by U.S. government scientists, shows that forced molting can be harmful to humans as well. The studies show that forced molting increases the frequency and severity of Salmonella enteritidis among hens. The stressful conditions weaken their immune systems so badly that they become prone to disease and salmonella infections. The result is sick birds and contaminated eggs.

We have learned that The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is looking for ways to reduce salmonella in eggs, and we would like to bring attention to the fact that one of the most effective and direct ways to reduce salmonella in eggs would be to eliminate the practice of forced molting. We also feel that the practice of force molting is extremely cruel and inhumane. The dockets pertinent to this issue are: 98N-1230, 96P-0418, and 97P-0197. Please help reduce salmonella infections and end force molting by supporting these dockets.

Sincerely,

Name

Date

Hanna Park
Cristina Herndon

9/30/99

Connie van

10/1/99

ling shin

10/1/99

~~Christine~~

10-1-99

Christelle Harrang

10-1-99

96P-0418
Angela [Signature]

10-12-99

John [Signature]

C 754

CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number:

98N-1230/ C 754

See File Number:

97P-0197/ C 755

96P-0418/ C 754

